

28 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: All NIOs

SUBJECT : Requirements and Priorities Matters

1. The IC Staff has before NFIB a revision of DCID 1/2 which would convert the matrix of numerical priorities attached to the document from guidance only for planning and programming to guidance also for current operations. What this means is that the priorities assigned to collection and analysis on a given country can already be changed at any time if a convincing



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2. To change priorities, an NIO must make a proposal to the DCID 1/2 ad hoc working group, chaired by [redacted] which in turn must give its approval before the NIO may seek final approval from NFIB. This group was convened initially to revise the DCID and to update for the year 1977 the matrix of priorities that is attached to it. In the absence of a permanent group charged with managing these priorities on a day-to-day basis, the ad hoc working group is making the day-to-day decisions on changing individual priorities. The ad hoc group may at some point be replaced by, or subordinated to, a new DCI committee on requirements and priorities.

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3. The members of the ad hoc working group are people whose profession is requirements and priorities, not substance. It follows that they require substantive guidance. The group plans, at this point, to submit its new matrix of priorities for 1977, by geographic area, to the NIOs for comment before publication. If the NIOs respond, some substantively based order will have been given to the priorities within each of the geographic areas. The problem, however, will remain that there is no group that can balance the priorities assigned to one geographic area against those assigned to another.



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4. At the meeting of the ad hoc working group that agreed to recommend [redacted] appreciation was expressed for the national intelligence requirements on [redacted]. The services and NSA, in particular, feel the need for national intelligence requirements across the board. They once considered the KIJs such and used them for resource allocation and auditing purposes; the FY 77 KIJs, of course, do not allow even the pretense of such practice. The IC Staff tried to fill the breach by drafting worldwide Priority National Intelligence Requirements for Programming and Planning, but the project was stillborn. The services, NSA, and the IC Staff believe, therefore, that a void remains to be filled.

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